

AMERICAN MANNERS.

Are Much Better Than the Average
Britisher of London Has
Any Idea Of.

The ordinary Londoner who has not had the good fortune to cross the Atlantic is wont to picture his American cousin wearing a goatee and a victim to the constant chewing of tobacco and liberal expectation. On arriving in New York he is amazed to discover that the goatee is conspicuous by its absence, tobacco chewing unnoticeable and expectation practically unknown. In this respect he finds the New Yorker far more cleanly in his habits than the Londoner, more especially on public cars and in public places, says an eastern exchange. The unrestrained indulgence of spitting on and off the tops of buses and in railway trains, and the random chewing and smoking of tobacco in and around London are simply odious, and make traveling intolerable and oftentimes disgusting even to a smoker. Here the strange prohibition against spitting in public places and the sensible regulation as to smoking are so thoroughly observed that traveling becomes a pleasure. If London would only copy the most admirable example existing in New York in this respect the English metropolis would soon be rid of a most unwarrantable and filthy habit.

CHINA MAKING PROGRESS.

Industrial and Commercial Growth
of Asia's Greatest Country Is
an Assured Thing.

Europeans and Americans who have lived long in China are quite unanimous in the opinion that the greatest country of Asia, taking account of area, population and natural resources, is making steady progress industrially and commercially, and the general belief is that more rapid gains are assured for the next few years. Statistics of exports and imports tell the same story. So does the development of railways and telegraph lines. The world-wide importance of this progress is not easily exaggerated. It promises to insure the existence of the Chinese empire as an immense independent state, for it lessens the force of such pretexts as might have been discovered or invented for dividing or seizing the country. It also makes the international importance of China so evident and so great that no one European power is likely to find the way open for the absorption of so rich an empire, while the more progressive the Chinese become the less chance there will be for an agreement between the leading nations of the west as to the terms of a possible partitioning of the middle kingdom.

WEARINESS OF WEALTH.

"Godless Magnificence and Selfish
Prodigality of Some Rich
New Yorkers.

The very rich men of the world are growing exceedingly tired of the vast wealth accumulated. In New York scores and hundreds of men to-day are paying anywhere from \$9,000 to \$16,000 a month rent for suites of rooms, not homes which they have built for their families, but simply apartments which they have rented for awhile, says a writer in *Homiletic Review*. The godless magnificence, the selfish prodigality, the overwhelming ostentation of the wealth of New York in certain circles cannot be described; but it is all an indication of the fact that the climax has well-nigh been reached in the display of what wealth can get. The world is waiting now to know what wealth can give. It is the nemesis of vast wealth that it brings its own retribution, and that retribution is the weariness of being unable to find happiness in merely having things.

THE LITTLE FINGERNAIL.

It Was Worn Long Many Years Ago,
But Now It Is Carefully
Maintained.

Forty years ago in certain parts of the United States it was the custom to grow long nails. I well remember some of the swells and puffers who devoted more attention to their little finger nails than they did to their teeth, and often have I seen the fifth digit with a claw on it an inch and a quarter in length. The nail was carried in a stall, and on occasion was split after the manner of a steel or quill pen, so that its wearer could sign his name to a check with it, says a writer in the *New York Press*. The trimming of nails to-day is an art which gives employment to many pretty women who style themselves manicures. Nearly every first-class, up-to-date barber shop has its manicure, who delights the man needing a shave or hair cut with an innocent flirtation. She dresses garishly and has a strut on her that would arouse the envy of a saddle-astir fox chaser.

New Chance for Bachelors.

The National Dressmakers' association will hereafter endeavor to find husbands for worthy seamstresses who are unable to conclude matrimonial negotiations without help. This is a praiseworthy enterprise, says the *Chicago Record-Herald*, and should be looked into by all bachelors who are charitably disposed.

Tourists in Italy.

Of 934,000 foreign tourists who visited Italy during the year ended June 13, 65,000 were English. It is estimated that the visitors spent \$70,000,000 during their stay in the country.

In Northern Norway.

Trondhem, the northernmost town of any size in Norway, is as far from Berlin as Rome is.

THE STUDY OF CHINESE.

Advocated by United States Consul
Agent in the Interest of
American Trade.

Mr. Charles Neuer, United States consular agent at Gera, in an official communication to the state department advocates the study of the Chinese language as a means of extending American trade in the Chinese empire, says the *Washington Star*. "While China is considered the land of promise for our farmers and manufacturers," says he, "the importance of the knowledge of the Chinese language is greatly undervalued. I submit the details of a recent interview with a linguist who has given special attention to this subject. It is well understood that in order to enter into permanent commercial relations with a foreign country it is indispensable to know its language. When Russian industries began to develop the Germans recognized that in order to engage in profitable trade in that country it was necessary to learn Russian, and there is now no country where the Russian language is so much taught as in Germany."

"The Chinese language is ideographic. It conveys the idea and not the word for the thing, as the figure '9' represents the idea and not the word. The Chinese have invented more than 40,000 marks for their writing. In the opinion of my informant it will require only about 3,000 marks for mercantile correspondence, and it will be easier to learn them than the words of an ordinary foreign language."

"Russian is more difficult for Americans than Chinese. It takes much longer to learn the spoken language, because of the variety of dialects; but any one who can learn enough of the writings to answer ordinary purposes in a few months and have his knowledge perfected by a linguist within about a year. An exact instruction in one of the Chinese languages can only be given by a Chinaman."

"This method has been adopted in Germany. Besides the professor for the theory of language, there are four Chinese linguists in the Oriental seminary of Berlin teaching the business style and the language of Peking, Shanghai and Canton. It is not intended to fit pupils for the diplomatic service, but for commercial work."

HOMICIDE IN AMERICA.

Statistics of Crime in This Country
Furnish Evidence of a Terrible
Tide of Murder.

Comparative statistics of murder should teach us some lessons of national humility, because, blink it as we may crime, and especially that of homicide, is a pretty accurate measure of the attainment of civilization. There are about 10,000 murders a year in the United States. Mr. Robert Anderson, of London, has lately astonished his readers by stating that in the 6,000,000 inhabitants of London there are annually on the average only about 18 murders. In a sermon on crime a clergyman of one of our smaller American cities recently stated that in his city (of about 200,000 inhabitants) there were in the last five years an average of nearly 30 homicides a year, says *American Medicine*. Supposing, therefore, that these people would not become far more criminal when massed together by millions, it follows that if the clergyman's city were as large as London there would be nearly 900 murders a year in it, instead of 18. But, worse is yet to come: Out of the 145 murders in five years there were only 23 convictions, and the very worst is the fact that not one of these convicted murderers suffered the death penalty! Upon one side, surely, the retort no longer holds that the doctors put their bad work beneath the ground and the lawyers hang it up above it, "so much hemp grown, so little used," may be pertinently quoted.

ANT HYPNOTISTS.

A Science in Medical Science Among
Some of the Insects Witnessed
by a Student.

That ants doctor their sick by hypnotism and magnetism is proved by observation. An ardent student tells how he witnessed what may be termed a science in medical science among ants. He saw several of these little creatures emerge from the hills and noticed that there were some among them which were weak and emaciated—invalids, in fact. They were accompanied by healthy members of the community, and all made their way toward a distant mound.

On following their movements through a glass the observer saw on this mound a big and sturdy ant which made some motions in the direction of the advancing invalids. The latter went up the mound one by one, and submitted themselves to treatment. This consisted in the physician ant passing his feelers over the head and body of the patient in a manner distinctly suggestive of the hypnotizing of nerves and muscles practiced by human doctors. Every one went through the treatment, then the patients went back, and the doctor marched off in the opposite direction.

King Edward's China.

The proverbial "bull in a china shop" would find a rich field for exercising his proclivities could he gain entrance to King Edward's closets. The value of the china at Buckingham palace and Windsor is said to exceed \$2,000,000, reports the *St. Louis Star*. The Sevres dessert service in the green drawing-room at Windsor is valued at \$500,000, and the Rose du Barri vases at \$250,000. At Buckingham palace there are six Sevres vases which are valued at \$25,000 each.

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